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Message Text

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SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: LUIS SILVA SANTISTEBAN

REF: STATE 227987

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, THERE FOLLOWS A BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF CRONICA DIRECTOR SILVA SANTISTEBAN. WE WILL SEND BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON OTHER MEDIA DIRECTORS BY AIRGRAM.

2. DR. LUIS SILVA SANTISTEBAN ASSUMED DIRECTORSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED LA CRONICA ON SEPTEMBER 16, REPLACING INTERIM DIRECTOR HERNANDO AGUIRRE GAMIO, WHO IN TURN HAD SUPPLANTED EX-PRESIDENT VELASCO'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, LUIS GONZALES POSADA, AFTER THE AUGUST 29 CHANGE IN GOP LEADERSHIP. SILVA WAS FORMERLY AN ACCOUNTANT AT THE NATIONAL PLANNING INSTITUTE AND A SOME-TIME CONTRIBUTOR TO LA CRONICA'S EDITORIAL PAGE. THOUGH NOT CONSIDERED WIDELY-EXPERIENCED IN JOURNALISM, SILVA ALSO SUBMITTED AT LEAST OCCASIONAL ARTICLES TO EXPRESO FROM 1971-74. THESE ARTICLES, ENTITLED "CHRONICLES FROM THE OTHER WORLD", WERE WRITTEN WHILE SILVA TRAVELED AND STUDIED IN YUGOSLAVIA AND EAST GERMANY.

3. WE KNOW LITTLE OF SILVA'S EARLY LIFE (HE IS NOW BETWEEN 35 AND 40 YEARS OLD). ONE SOURCE, FORMER ULTIMA HORA DIRECTOR ISMAEL FRIAS, SAYS THAT AS A YOUNGER MAN SILVA WAS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A STUDY GRANT FROM A WESTERN COUNTRY BUT WHEN UNABLE TO DO SO, TRAVELED TO YUGOSLAVIA AND EAST GERMANY INSTEAD. IN 1974, SILVA RECEIVED HIS DOCTORATE IN PHILOSPPHY
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FROM EAST BERLIN UNIVERSITY, WHERE HIS THESIS, ENTITLED

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"PRAXIS Y ALINEACION", RECEIVED HIGHEST MARKS.

4. FRIAS BELIEVES THAT SILVA WAS "IDEOLOGICALLY FORMED" BY HIS EXPERIENCES IN EAST EUROPE AND IMPLIES THAT HE IS AT LEAST SYMPATHETIC TOWARD COMMUNIST IDEOLOGICAL POSITIONS. FONOFF PRESS SPOKESMAN OSCAR FAURA, HOWEVER, CLAIMS THAT SILVA'S EXPERIENCES ABROAD "VACCINATED" HIM AGAINST COMMUNISM. WE ARE TENTATIVELY INCLINED MORE TOWARD FRIAS' EVALUATION.

5. AFTER RETURNING TO LIMA LAST YEAR, SILVA IS SAID TO HAVE FORMED A GROUP OF WRITERS AND ARTISTS, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW FOR WHAT PURPOSE, WHOM IT COMPRISED, OR WHAT BECAME OF IT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SILVA AT SOME POINT (PROBABLY BEFORE TRAVELING ABROAD), WAS AN INSTRUCTOR IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF CAYETANO HEREDIA AND SAN MARCOS IN LIMA.

6. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER ASSUMING HIS NEW POSITION, SILVA TOLD REPORTERS HE VIEWED LA CRONICA'S ROLE AS THAT OF DEFENDER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. HE SAID THAT IN THE "SECOND PHASE" OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS THERE WILL "APPEAR AND REAPPEAR ADVERSARIES OF THE REVOLUTION TO WHICH LA CRONICA WILL HAVE TO RESPOND". HE ALSO CITED THE POTENTIAL "MISUSE" BY THESE ADVERSARIES OF THE "PLURALISM (THE REVOLUTION) ENDORSES."

7. PRESENT AT SILVA'S INVESTITURE WAS FORMER CRONICA DIRECTOR GUILLERMO THORNDIKE. THORNDIKE WAS NOTICEABLY ABSENT FROM THE CEREMONY HONORING GONZALES POSADA, WHO REPLACED HIM AS CRONICA DIRECTOR IN JULY.
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